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BOROUGH OF NEW ROMNEY

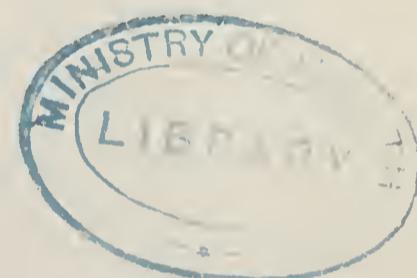
KENT

ANNUAL REPORTS OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1951





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BOROUGH OF NEW ROMNEY (KENT)

ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF  
HEALTH AND OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR  
THE YEAR 1951.

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for the year 1951.

The Registrar-General's estimate of the Home Population (all ages) was 2,241 as at 30th June, 1951. There has, therefore, been a slight fall from 1950 when the population was 2,289.

The number of births was 45, more by 10 than in 1950, and the birth-rate has accordingly risen to 20.08. The actual number of births is not large, though relative to the size of the population, and comparatively small fluctuations in the number of births would give a rate, which when compared with large populations might be misleading. The rates were in 1947 - 22.39, in 1948 - 19.90, in 1949 - 16.29, and in 1950 - 15.29. The rise therefore in 1951 to 20.08 is the first since 1947 and in a very general sense, is a favourable sign.

The number of infant deaths was 2, giving an infant mortality rate of 44.44. These deaths were both due to prematurity which is the most common cause of infant deaths. There were also 3 still-births. The causes of premature births and of still-births are numerous and complex, but the fact that they occur indicates the constant need for vigilant and careful ante-natal examinations of the mother.

However, it is gratifying that there were no deaths amongst mothers due to pregnancy, childbirth, or abortion, and that there were no cases of puerperal pyrexia which was greatly dreaded before the introduction of the sulphonamides commonly known as M & B, and of the antibiotics of which Penicillin was the precursor.

There were 37 deaths at all ages. The majority of deaths was due to heart and circulatory diseases and to Cancer. Most of these deaths were amongst the aged. There was no exceptional cause of deaths.

No deaths occurred due to Infectious Disease. There were minor outbreaks of Whooping Cough and Measles. These diseases are endemic in the Country and attack susceptible children "ad lib". They are most infectious before they are usually recognised by the parents and epidemics commonly occur amongst school-children who bring the infection home to younger members of the family. Children under two years of age, particularly infants, should be shielded from contact as broncho-pneumonia, which is the most common complication of both diseases may be very dangerous, especially if treatment is delayed.

Gamma globulin, which is about twice as potent as Convalescent serum, may be given within the first five days of exposure to prevent and within a few days later to attenuate an attack of measles. It is chiefly indicated when the exposed child is in poor health or suffering from another illness. The dose is 0.1 - 0.2 cc. per pound of body weight

and both Gamma globulin and Convalescent serum are available on request from the County Laboratory.

There is no such agent available for the prevention of Whooping Cough however. It is still uncertain whether the claims made are justifiable that inoculation with vaccines produces sufficient immunity to protect against the disease. The most practical method of prevention is to isolate cases as early as possible for 5 - 6 weeks. There would however remain the unrecognised mild or abortive cases, who would still disseminate infection.

There were five mild and unrelated cases of Scarlet Fever of which three were treated at home and two in Hospital. Methods of prevention and treatment of this disease have now relegated it from its former serious nature, to that of a minor infectious disease.

No other infectious diseases worthy of note occurred.

There were no case of food-poisoning, which however does not give any cause for the relaxation of strict supervision over the manufacture distribution and sale of food, which of course includes milk and ice-cream both of which are consumed by every family. Adequate protection from rats, mice and domestic animals and from insects such as the common house-fly and should always be maintained.

It will be noted from the appended table, that there are 13 cases of Tuberculosis on the Register 12 of whom are respiratory. There was only one new case of Respiratory Tuberculosis, and there was one death. The incidence of new cases is declining, and more and more beds are gradually becoming available for treatment. There should be, therefore, fewer and fewer 'open' ambulant cases abroad to disseminate infection amongst the susceptible.

In summary, therefore the Public Health may be regarded as being satisfactory, with the qualification that there is always scope for improvement.

In conclusion, I wish to thank you for your interest and co-operation in the work of the Department and the staff for their loyal and efficient service.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

J. MARSHALL.

M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.  
Medical Officer of Health and  
Principal Medical Officer K.C.C.

SECTION A.STATISTICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT  
FOR 1951.

Area:- 1,509 acres.

Registrar-General's Estimate of:-

The Resident Population	...	...	...	2,241
Number of Inhabited Houses According to the Rate Books	...	...	...	852
Rateable Value:-	...	...	...	£18,690
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	£73

Social Conditions.

The ancient and historical Cinque Port Borough of New Romney, is today predominantly an Agricultural District. There are also within the Borough, the workshops of the Romney, Hythe, Dymchurch Light Railway and a few small factories. Part of the boundary is formed by the sea at Littlestone where there are wide expanses of sand which attract many summer visitors and holiday-makers. There is almost no unemployment, if any, and social conditions may generally be regarded as being satisfactory.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

		<u>Total</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>New Romney Borough</u>	<u>England and Wales.</u>
1.	Live Births	45	30	15	Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population.	
	(a) Legitimate	39	24	15	20.08	15.5
	(b) Illegitimate	6	6	-		
2.	<u>Stillbirths</u>	3	3	-	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.	62.5
	(a) Legitimate	3	3	-		
	(b) Illegitimate	-	-	-		
3.	Deaths	37	17	20	Death rate per 1,000 resident population.	16.51
4.	Deaths from Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion.	-	-	-	Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births.	0.79
5.	Deaths of Infants under One Year of Age.	2	1	1		
	(a) Legitimate	2	1	1		
	(b) Illegitimate	-	-	-		
	Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births				44.44	33.9
	Rate re legitimate infants				51.28	
	Rate re illegitimate infants				-	
6.	Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	8	
	Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	-	
	Deaths from Gastritis, Enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	-	
	Deaths from Measles	...	...	...	-	

The following cases of Infectious Diseases were notified during the year 1951.

Acute Primary or Influenza		
Pneumonia	...	6
Whooping Cough	...	53
Measles	...	10
Scarlet Fever	...	5

CAUSES OF DEATH IN NEW ROMNEY BOROUGH DURING1951

			<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
	ALL CAUSES		17	20
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	1
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	—
3.	Syphilitic disease	...	...	—
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	—
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	—
6.	Meningococcal infections	...	...	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	—
8.	Measles	...	...	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases		—	—
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	1	—
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	—	—
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	—	2
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	—	2
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms		2	1
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	—	—
16.	Diabetes	...	—	—
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	4	2
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	—	—
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	—	1
20.	Other heart disease	...	1	5
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	3	2
22.	Influenza	...	—	1
23.	Pneumonia		—	—
24.	Bronchitis	...	2	—
25.	Other disease of respiratory system	...	—	—
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	—	—
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	—	—
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	—	—
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	1	—
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	...	—	—
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases		2	3
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	—	—
34.	All other accidents	...	—	—
35.	Suicide	...	—	—
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	—	—

Immunisation against Diphtheria, 1951.

The following is a return of the number of children resident in the Borough of New Romney under the age of 15 years on 31st December, 1951, who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date (i.e. at any time since 1st January, 1937).

Year of Birth.	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	Total
15	26	22	24	29	28	18	32	46	39	31	33	30	23	7	403	

Immunisation against Diphtheria and Vaccination against Smallpox, 1951.

Year of Birth.	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940	1939	1938	1937	Total
Primary Inoculations.	7	21	3	1	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	2	5	47
Reinforcing Inoculations	-	-	-	2	16	2	1	1	1	3	-	2	11	9	18	65

Vaccination

Age at 31st December, 1951.	Under 1	1 to 4	5 to 14	15 or over	Total
Number Vaccinated	18	12	-	4	34
Number Re-Vaccinated.	-	-	4	19	23

(6)

## Tuberculosis

### New Cases and Mortality 1951

Age Periods.	New Cases				Deaths				Total Cases on Register		
	Respiratory		Non- Respiratory		Respiratory		Non- Respiratory		Respiratory		Non- Respiratory
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.
0	...								8	4	1
1	...								-	-	-
5	...								-	-	-
15	...								-	-	-
25	...				1				-	-	-
35	...				-				-	-	-
45	...				-				-	-	-
55	...				-				-	-	-
65 and upwards	-		-		-		-		1	X	-
Totals	-	1	-		-		-		-	1	-

X This case was not notified during life.

SECTION C.SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.1. Water Supply.

This is supplied by the Littlestone-on-Sea and District Water Company throughout the Borough.

Samples have been taken for both Chemical and Bacteriological Examination and found to be satisfactory.

2. Sewers.

The Crown Concrete to the Ejector Pit near the Gas Holders is defective and requires to be properly sealed to prevent the pit from filling with Storm Water.

A length of sewer at the Rear of Nos. 28 and 29, Churchlands, New Romney, requires to be exposed as soon as the sub-soil water level is sufficiently low. Judging from surface sinking of the ground it appears that the sewer is defective, and sand is getting into the main sewer. This causes ever frequent stoppages at various points of the Sewers. Only careful inspections by Mr. Summers and his prompt attendance to stoppages has prevented complete breakdowns in the Main Sewerage Scheme.

3. Public Cleansing.

The Corporation undertake the Cleansing of Septic Tank and Cesspools, and the removal of House Refuse.

Cesspit Emptying for 1951.

No. of Cesspools.	2,240
Main Drains and Ejectors	34
Total	2,274
Total No. of Loads	3,712.

Salvage.

11 tons 2 cwts. of Salvage has been collected during the year.

4. Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

<u>Premises Inspected</u>	<u>No. of Inspections</u>
<u>Accumulation found</u>	2
<u>Animals Kept</u>	
{a) Piggeries.	5
{b) Stables.	2
{c) Fowls, pigeons etc.	4

<u>Premises Inspected</u>	<u>No. of Inspections.</u>
<u>Complaints</u>	
Total Number investigated (all premises)	136
<u>Dairies</u>	
Cowsheds	-
Dairies	-
Milk Shops	20
<u>Disinfection</u>	
Number of Houses disinfected	-
Number of other buildings	-
<u>Disinfestation</u>	
Number of Houses	-
Number of other premises	-
<u>Drainage</u>	
Number of drains found choked	63
" " " " defective	4
" " " tested	12
<u>Dwelling Houses</u>	
Number of inspections re repairs	71
Re-inspections	12
Number inspected re overcrowding	1
Number found dirty	1
Number found verminous	Nil
<u>Infectious Diseases</u>	
Visits re Scarlet Fever	-
" " Diphtheria	-
" " Other Diseases	-
<u>Factories</u>	
With mechanised power	8
Without " "	2
Bakehouses	12
<u>Food Premises</u>	
Butchers' Shops or Stalls	69
Preparation of Potted Meat etc.	4
Fruiterers	33
Fishmongers and Fried Fish Shops	6
Restaurant or Cafe Kitchens	20
<u>Samples of Milk taken for Bacteriological Examination</u>	
Satisfactory	3
Unsatisfactory	-
<u>Miscellaneous Visits</u>	
Number of Visits not otherwise classified	49

<u>Building Byelaws</u>	86
<u>Shops Act</u>	31
<u>Tents, Vans, Shed etc.</u>	33
<u>Water Supply</u>	
General	-
Water Samples taken (Chemical)	12
" " " (Bacteriological)	12

PLANS

The Number of Planning Applications submitted to this Corporation were 57. These were dealt with as follows:-

Classified 111 and dealt with by Kent County Council	11
Classified 11 and 1 " " " this Corporation	46

No appeals were lodged with the Ministry of Town and Country Planning.

MEAT AND OTHER FOOD

The following is a list of foodstuffs condemned as unfit for human consumption during 1951:-

Beef	147 lbs.
Mutton	42 "
Milk	11 tins
Pork	3 "
Ham	4 "
Bacon	2 "
Miscellaneous	30 "
Sausage Rolls	12

HOUSING PROGRAMME

56 Traditional Houses have been completed and occupied in the Post War Housing Scheme. A site for 12 Old Peoples' Bungalows has commenced.

BEACH QUARRY

The Beach Quarry, Dymchurch Road, has again started to operate. Excavations are undertaken by Messrs. Reeves (Motor Transport) Ltd., Folkestone. From 1st January, 1951, to the end of the year, 10,355 cb. yds. have been excavated.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

T. HOPE. (M.S.I.A.)

Borough Surveyor and  
Sanitary Inspector.



